

15. (Amended) A method for VCSEL polarization control comprising the steps of:

providing a VCSEL element that produces a light output that has one and/or both of at least two polarization states;

B² providing a polarization medium that polarizes the light output in a third polarization state; and

positioning the polarization medium in proximal relation to the VCSEL element so that the third polarization state selects and attenuates each of the at least two polarization states equally or substantially equally.

21. (Amended) A polarization controlled optical energy source comprising:

a laser source element for producing a light output that has one and/or both of at least two polarization states; and

polarization means for polarizing the light output in a third polarization state that selects and attenuates each of the at least two polarization states equally or substantially equally.

B³ 22. (Amended) A method for providing a relatively constant light intensity output

from a light source that produces a light beam that has at least two polarization states, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a polarization medium that polarizes the light beam in a third polarization state; and